In response to the Office Action of May 20, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended) A stable pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a [small or medium size] peptide or of a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof selected from the group consisting of derivatives and analogues of oxytocin and vasopressin and the salts thereof and further containing a buffer in aqueous solution, wherein it is free from [preservatives] adsorption inhibitors preventing adsorption of the active principle onto container walls and free from antioxidants and antimicrobial additives.
- 2. (Currently Amended) A stable pharmaceutical composition consisting of a therapeutically effective amount of a [small or medium size] peptide or of a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof selected from the group consisting of derivatives and analogues of oxytocin and vasopressin and the salts thereof and of a buffer in aqueous solution.

Claims 3-9 (CANCELLED)

- 10. (Currently Amended) A <u>The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim [9] 1</u>, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of the analogues of vasopressin, and the salts thereof.
- (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim
 [10] 3, wherein the analogue of vasopressin contains a mercaptopropancyl radical.
- 12. (Currently Amended) <u>The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim</u>
 [11] 5, wherein the analogue of vasopressin is desmopressin acetate hydrate.

- 13. (Currently Amended) <u>The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or 2</u>, having a pH comprised between 3.5 and 6.
- 14. (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, [containing a] wherein the buffer is selected from the group consisting of citric acid/disodium phosphate dihydrate and citric acid/trisodium citrate dihydrate.
- 15. (Currently Amended) <u>The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, [further containing a] wherein the buffer is selected from the group consisting of citric acid/disodium phosphate dihydrate and citric acid/trisodium citrate dihydrate.</u>
- (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, containing an agent for controlling the osmolarity.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, further containing an agent for controlling the osmolarity.
- 18. (Currently Amended) <u>The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim</u>[16] <u>12</u>, wherein the agent for controlling the osmolarity is sodium chloride.
- 19. (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, containing at least 0.02 mg of desmopressin, at least 3 mg of [a] the buffer, and an amount of an agent for controlling the osmolarity such that the osmolarity is kept at the physiologic values of the human plasma, and 1 ml of purified water.
- 20. (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, containing at least 0.02 mg of desmopressin, and containing at least 3 mg of [a] the buffer, and further containing an amount of an agent for controlling the osmolarity such that the osmolarity is kept at the physiologic values of the human plasma, in 1 ml of purified water.
- 21. (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to

- claim [19] 15, containing from 3 to 6 mg of citric acid/disodium phosphate dihydrate buffer, or from 5 to 11 mg of citric acid/trisodium citrate dihydrate buffer.
- 22. (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim [19] 15, containing from 0.02 to 0.15 mg of desmopressin, from 1 to 2.5 mg of citric acid monohydrate, from 2 to 5 mg of disodium phosphate dihydrate, 1 ml of water and an amount of sodium chloride such that the osmolarity is kept at the physiologic values of the human plasma.
- 23. Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim [22] 18, containing 0.1 mg of desmopressin, 1.7 mg of citric acid monohydrate, 3 mg of disodium phosphate dihydrate, 1 ml of water and an amount of sodium chloride such that the osmolarity is kept at the physiologic values of the human plasma.
- 24. (Currently Amended) The Sstable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, containing 0.1 mg of desmopressin, and [further] containing 1.7 mg of citric acid monohydrate, 3 mg of disodium phosphate dihydrate, in 1 ml of water and further an amount of sodium chloride such that the osmolarity is kept at the physiologic values of the human plasma.

Claims 25-30 (Withdrawn from Consideration)

- 31. (New) The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of the analogues of vasopressin, and the salts thereof.
- 32. (New) The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the analogue of vasopressin contains a mercaptopropancyl radical.
- 33. (New) The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, wherein the analogue of vasopressin is desmopressin acetate hydrate.